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DUXBURY'S DAY.

Partridge Academy Has
Semi-Centennial.

Mrs. Mary A. Livermore Tells
of Her Teaching.

Rev. George Briggs Alone
Left of Founders.

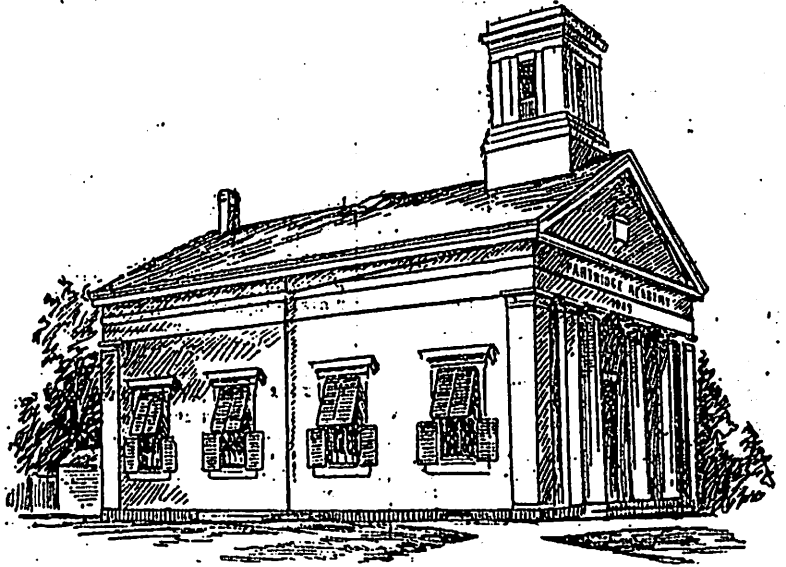
Has Been Used as Town's
High School Since 1874.

Prof. Ellis Peterson of Boston
Orator of the Day.

DUXBURY, June 28—Today is the 50th anniversary of the erection of Partridge academy of this town. The exercises began this morning at the Unitarian church, were followed by a banquet at noon, and ended with a big ball in the evening.

The institution was founded by Hon. George Partridge, who died on July 7, 1828, and left \$10,000 for its establishment. This was kept at interest by the trustees until 1840, when they thought it prudent to establish the school.

The building was erected and ready for use on Dec. 16, 1844, at which time the examination of 50 applicants took place and 50 were admitted. The school opened in January, 1845, with James Michie as principal.



Rev. Dr. George Briggs is now the only living trustee who served when the academy was opened. The trustees of the institution since its opening have been: Rev. George Briggs, Hon. Seth Sprague, Capt. Briggs, Thomas, Capt. Daniel Winsor, Dr. John Porter, Capt. Joseph Wadsworth, George W. Ford, Dr. John Wilde, John S. Loring, Hon. Hamilton E. Smith, Hon. Samuel Loring, Elbridge H. Chandler, Rev. Frederick N. Knapp, John H. Parks, Fred B. Knapp, Horatio Adams, William J. Wright and Herbert E. Chandler.

The teachers have been William B. Edson, George Bradford, Ellis Peterson, William Wheeler, Rev. Joseph Moore, Miss Julia Stetson, Edmund Wright, R. J. Worcester, Rev. E. B. Maglathlin, Charles F. Jacobs, Miss Stella C. Jacobs, George R. Pinkham, Thomas H. H. Knight and Miss Harriet D. Symmes.

In April, 1874, by an agreement between the trustees and the school committee of the town of Duxbury, the academy was turned into and used as the high school of the town.

The building is on high land, near the Unitarian church, on the road leading from Kingston to Duxbury village. It is 61 feet long and 41 feet wide, with large pillars in front. In the interior, on the lower floor, is the school room, 44 by 38 feet, with large ante-rooms in the front, and above is a hall, 50 by 38 feet, which is used as a recitation room.

In spite of the rainy day about 5000 people were present. At 10 a. m. a reception was held in the lower hall, which was handsomely decorated. At 11 a. m. the people assembled in the Unitarian church to listen to the exercises. Reuben Peterson of Boston, chairman of the committee of arrangements, made introductory remarks in which he welcomed the past graduates to the celebration.

Prof. Ellis Peterson of Boston was then introduced as orator of the day. He spoke of the building of the academy 50 years ago, and of the early school life there. He told of Mr Partridge's early life, born in 1740, graduated from Harvard college in 1763, in 1779 was made captain of the minute men of Duxbury, and the representative from the town for several years; how he, with Samuel Adams, attended the secret session of the assembly at Salem, and was one of the committee to wait on Gen Washington when he came to Cambridge to take charge of the Continental army.

He then spoke of the good standing of the Duxbury schools and of the different teachers, of the changes in the methods of teaching since the founding of the academy, and ended by saying that a Partridge academy association should be founded.

Erastus B. Sampson, who was graduated from the academy in 1847, read an original poem written for the occasion.

Mrs. Mary A. Livermore then arose amid great applause. She gave reminiscences of her teaching school in Duxbury. She said: "It is 53 years ago last month since I first came to this town, and until then I did not know there was such a place. Partridge academy was then being talked of, but it was thought the money left for its establishment had not accumulated enough to begin building.

"The Duxbury people said: 'We are to have the place for a more advanced course of studies than can be obtained in the district school.' That was one of the first things I learned after I came here. One of the leading men of the town came to me in Boston and wished me to come here and teach. I was then just through with three years' teaching in a family school in southern Virginia.

"I found I could do just as I liked—I could have everything my own way. There was nothing then to help the teacher along—no normal school, no educational papers, and as for most of the school committees I had met I did not care, a continental. The teachers were thrown on their own resources.

"I was told I could have a school of 25 pupils, all girls. I came here, and before the first term had ended, boys began to come. The school I had been in charge of in the south was on a plantation, 10 white scholars and 700 negroes. I had decided ideas of my own on the conduct of schools, theories which were not approved by all. I went still farther than Horace Mann did, and insisted there should be no punishment in my school for breach of discipline, and that there should be no rewards for good behavior. The misdemeanor should be its own penalty, and the satisfaction of doing good was its own reward! I did not hold my scholars to a strict account of all their actions.

"The school was then called a select school. No one of my pupils had anything written against their names that would debar them from a good standing. In my first summer here I congratulated myself on having come to live in a suburb of heaven."

She then spoke of some of her scholars, and how well they had turned out.

At 2 p m the people marched to the town house close by, where a banquet was held.

After the banquet was served Mr Reuben Peterson, toastmaster, announced the toasts, which were responded to as follows: "Our trustees," by Mr John H. Parks of Island Creek; "Our national government," by Mr Amherst A. Alden of Boston; Partridge academy 47, and Prof Ellis Peterson; "Our school committee," by Mr Henry Farstow of Duxbury; "Our visitation days," by Mrs Ruth A. Bradford of Boston; "Japan, China and Corea," by Mr Everett Frazer of New York; "The

legal profession, or the law and gospel," by Mr Horace T. Fogg of Scituate; "Our great west," by Mr Walter D. Turner of Batavia, Ill; poem, by Miss Jerusha Hathaway of Duxbury; "The war of the rebellion," Mr Walter Y. Gross of Brookline; "Town officers 50 years ago," by Mr Samuel P. Soule of Duxbury; "Municipal government," by Hon William P. Ellison, ex mayor of Newton; "The Partridge academy of today," by Mr Thomas H. H. Knight, principal of the academy; "Shipbuilding and commerce," by Mr William Drew of Boston.